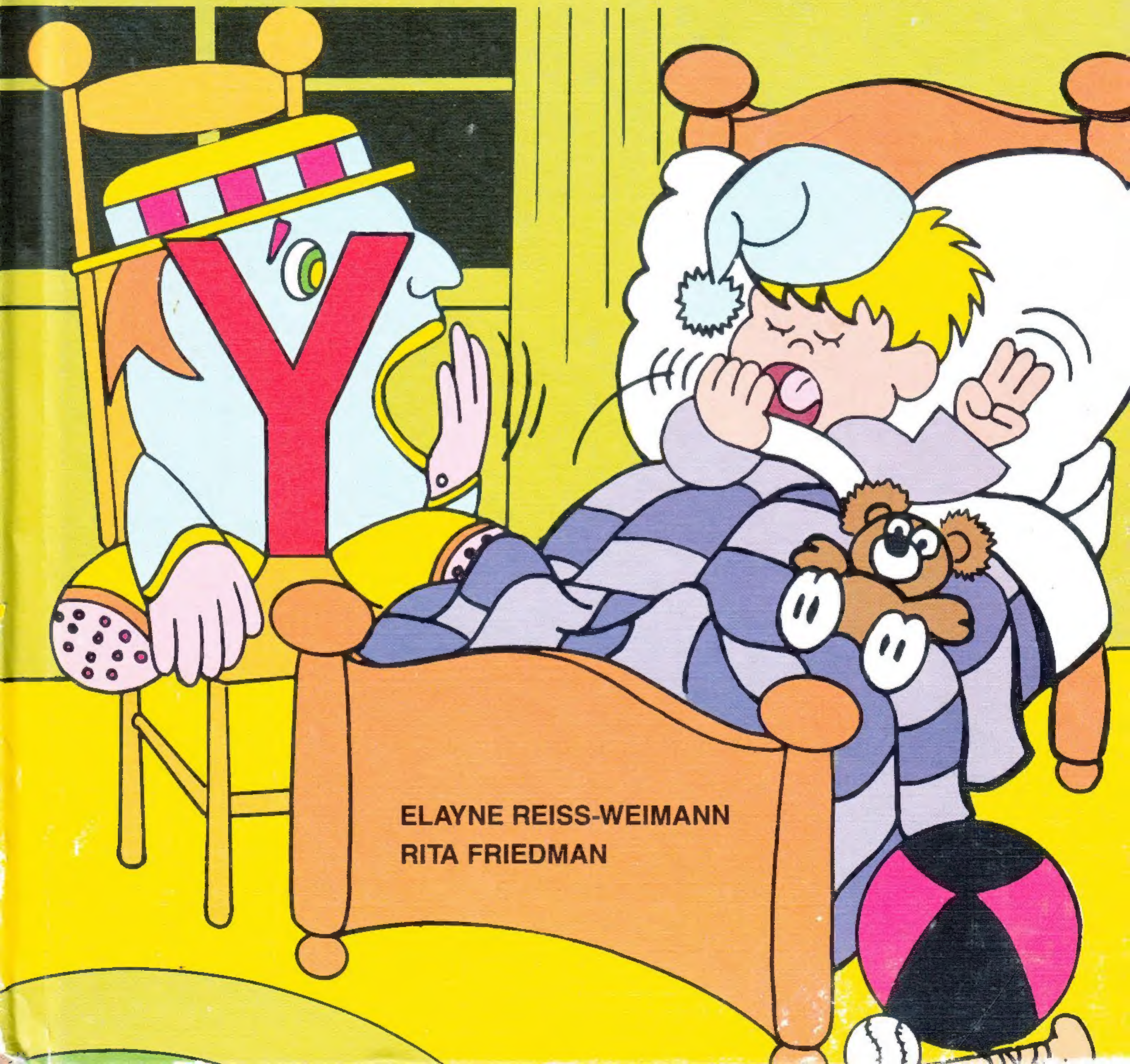


The YAWN MAKER

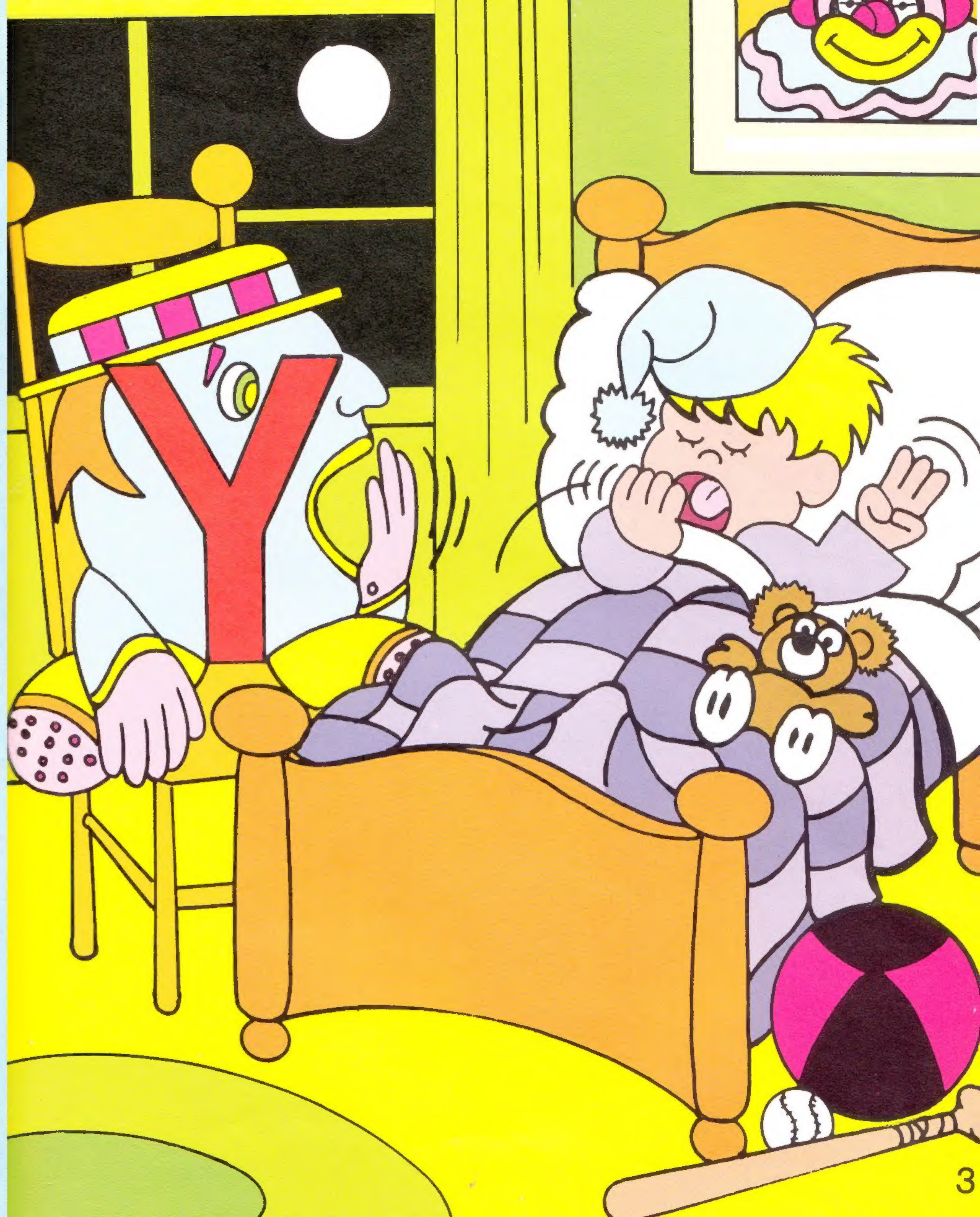


ELAYNE REISS-WEIMANN
RITA FRIEDMAN

Mr. Y is the yawn maker of Letter People Land.
Without Mr. Y no one can yawn.



Each night, at bedtime, Mr. Y visits all
the people in Letter People Land.
He yawns.
They yawn.
Then they fall asleep.
Some people need only one yawn and they fall asleep.
Others need two or three yawns.
Still others need as many as ten yawns.
Mr. Y never rushes anyone.
He yawns and yawns until they fall asleep.



Mr. Y is the only yawn maker in all of Letter People Land.
Poor Mr. Y can never have a vacation.
However, one day the people insist Mr. Y take a vacation.
“How will you fall asleep if I don’t make you yawn?” asks Mr. Y.
“We will try to fall asleep without yawning,” they answer.
“Don’t worry about us.”



Mr. Y agrees.

He goes away for a few days.

Mr. Y has fun the first day.

However, at bedtime he worries about his friends in Letter People Land.

"I wonder if they will be able to fall asleep without yawning?" he says.

Mr. Y is so worried, he cannot enjoy himself.

The next morning he hurries back to Letter People Land.



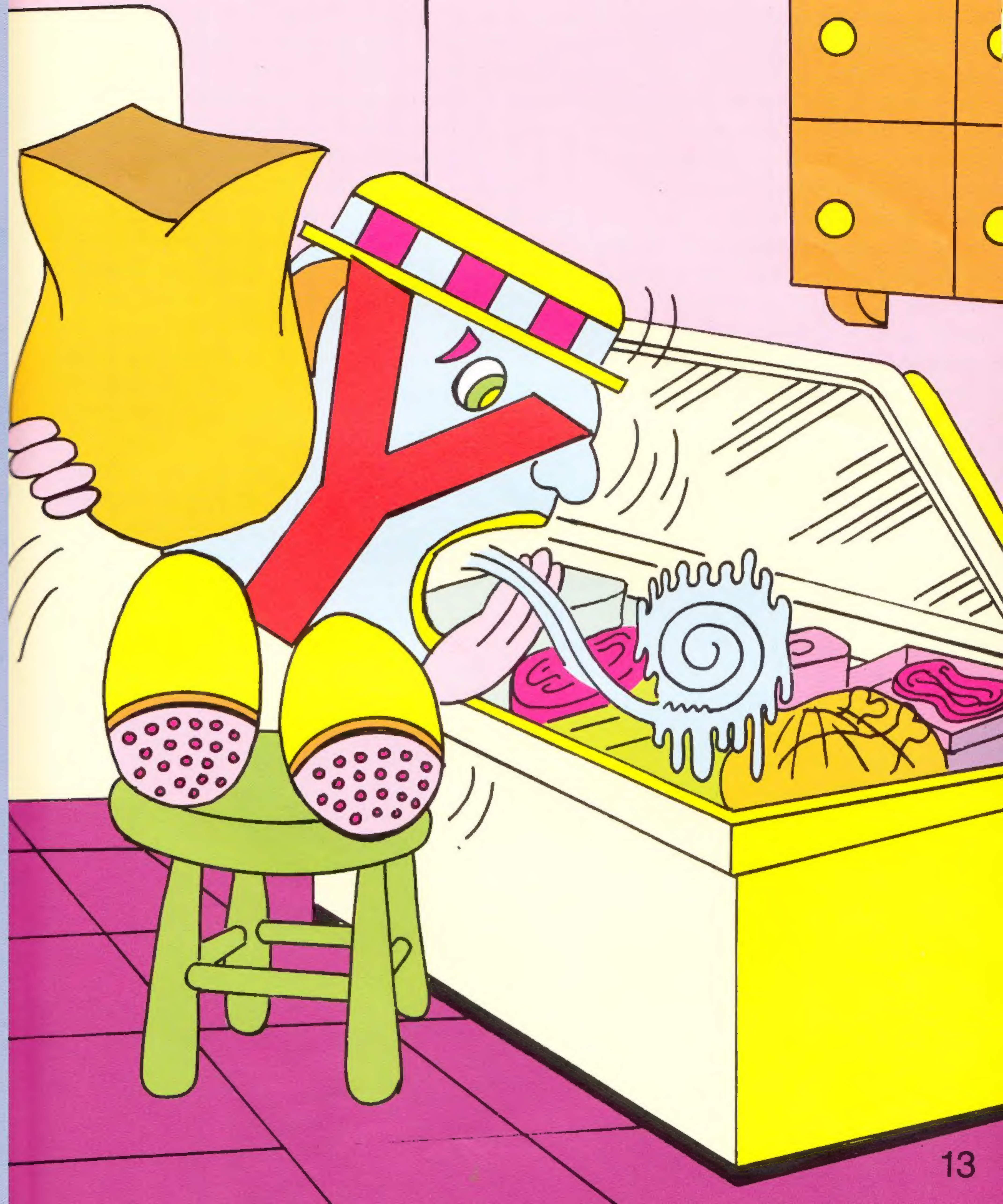
Everyone Mr. Y sees looks tired.
People keep rubbing their eyes.
No one goes to school.
No one goes to work.
“Mr. Y, we are so glad to see you,” they say
in weak voices.
“We cannot fall asleep without you.
We all need you to yawn for us.”
Quickly, Mr. Y yawns for each person.
No one needs more than one yawn to fall asleep.



Mr. Y cannot continue his vacation.
“I will have to find a way for people to yawn when I am not here,” he says.
Mr. Y tries to train an assistant.
However, the assistant cannot yawn unless Mr. Y yawns first.
There does not seem to be any way for Mr. Y to have a vacation.



Then, one day Mr. Y is unpacking his groceries.
“I have a great deal of food to put in my
freezer,” says Mr. Y.
Mr. Y works very hard putting all the food in
his freezer.
He gets very tired.
He yawns.
The yawn floats out of Mr. Y’s mouth.
It lands in the freezer.
There, right before Mr. Y’s eyes, the yawn freezes.



All at once, Mr. Y has an idea.
He looks at all the frozen food.
He looks at the frozen yawn.
“Food is frozen so people can use it whenever
they need it,” says Mr. Y.
“Why can’t yawns be frozen?
I can give frozen yawns to everyone.
They can use the yawns whenever they need them.
Then I will be able to have a vacation.”



Mr. Y asks his friend Yale to help him.

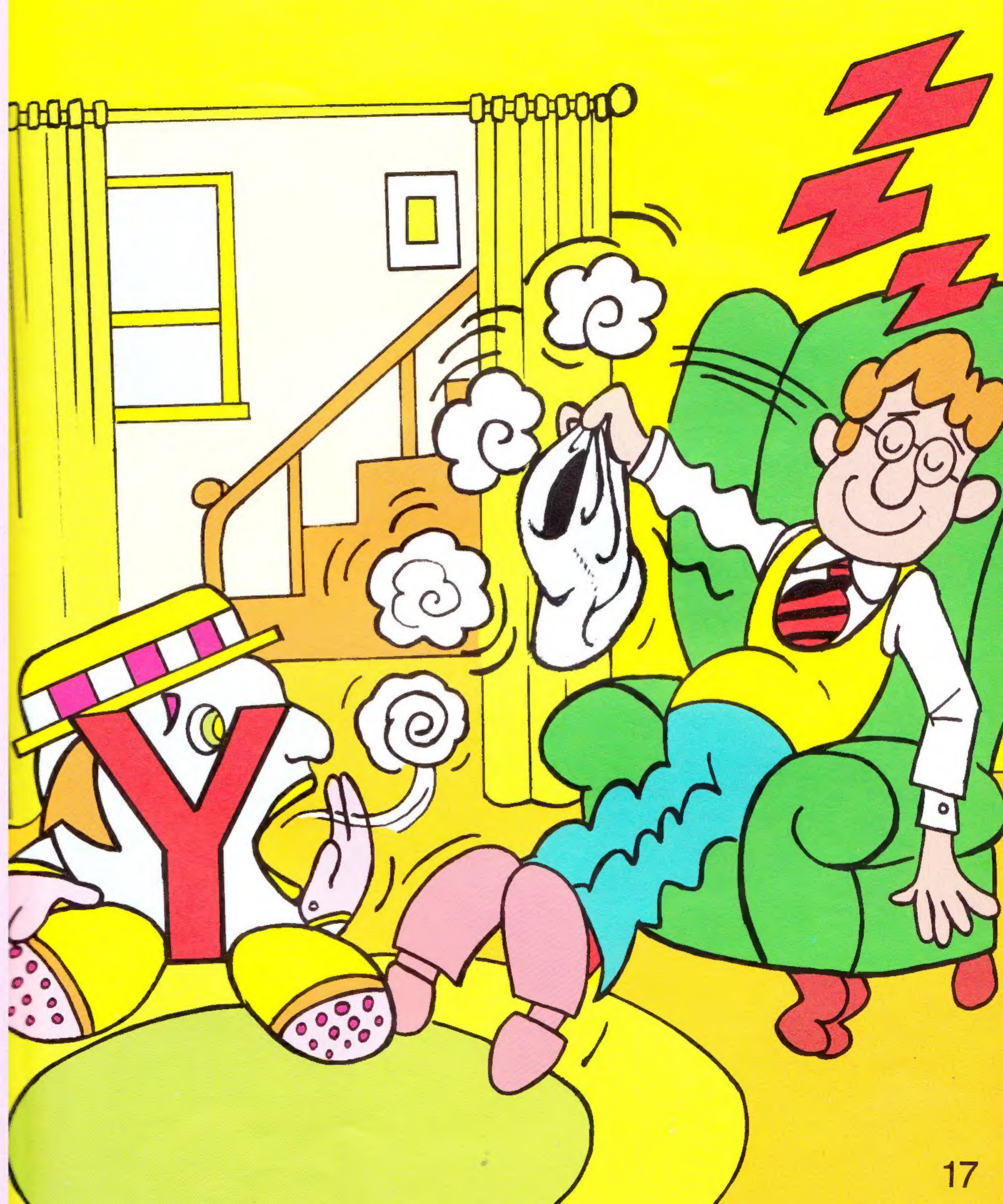
"I will yawn," says Mr. Y.

"You catch the yawn in a freezer bag and put it in my freezer."

Yale is happy to help Mr. Y.

However, each time Mr. Y yawns, Yale yawns.

Soon Yale is fast asleep.



No one can help Mr. Y catch yawns.
Everyone who tries, yawns and falls asleep.
Mr. Y must yawn and catch each yawn by himself.
Mr. Y yawns and yawns and yawns.
At last he has a freezer full of frozen yawns.
Yale offers to deliver the frozen yawns for Mr. Y.



Alas, Mr. Y's plan does not work.
Yale takes too long to deliver the yawns.
The frozen yawns defrost.
They disappear.
The freezer bags are empty.



Mr. Y does not give up.
Once again, he fills his freezer with yawns.
He hires Yolanda, who is an efficiency expert.
Yolanda makes a list of all the people in
Letter People Land.
Alongside each name, she writes the number of yawns
that each person will need.
Then, she packs each order of frozen yawns in ice.
A staff of delivery people quickly delivers the yawns.



This time all the yawns arrive frozen.
The people fill their freezers with frozen yawns.
Mr. Y telephones each person.
“I will be gone for one week,” he says.
“Please be sure you have enough frozen yawns.
Yolanda will deliver extras if you need them.”
Finally, everyone has enough frozen yawns.
Mr. Y gets ready to leave for his vacation.



Suddenly, Mr. Y's telephone rings and rings.
Everyone in Letter People Land calls him.
"We all want to go on vacation with you," they say.
"Why?" asks Mr. Y.
"I have left enough frozen yawns for each of you."
"We know," they say.
"But whenever we look at a yawn we will think of you.
We want to be with you."



Mr. Y cannot say no to his friends.
“I will enjoy being with them,” he thinks.
“However, now I will not have a vacation from yawning.
I will have to yawn for each person every night.”
Mr. Y is wrong.
His friends surprise him.





Mr. Y's friends arrive at the airport.

They check their luggage.

However, each person has something too valuable to check.

Everyone walks on to the plane carrying a cooler filled with frozen yawns.